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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/23/02 7:36pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I am a Software Quality Assurance Engineer with over 10 years of experience in this industry, and I believe that the currently proposed settlement does not do anything to level the playing field for Microsoft competitors or to punish Microsoft for leveraging its monopoly. In order to improve the settlement, it should include the following provisions:

- 1) Microsoft must document any API used to integrate an application with the operating system - I don't have a problem if Microsoft bundles additional applications with their operating system. I DO have a problem when they add additional private APIs to their monopoly operating system so that these applications can act in an integrated way with the operating system. This allows the bundled applications to have advantages that no third-party software developer can duplicate. This is an unfair advantage that Microsoft has used in the past and will continue to use under this agreement.
- 2) Microsoft must publish the specifications for their document formats - Many people use Microsoft applications because their colleagues or friends use these applications and send documents from these applications. If the user wants to use different applications, he usually can't because he can not use his existing documents in a non-Microsoft application. To make matters worse, Microsoft does not document their file formats, so third-party developers must reverse engineer these formats. Since most software companies are smaller than Microsoft, this causes a drain on their R&D departments, and is a substantial barrier to entry in the Office Productivity market segment. Microsoft should document their file formats, so that a computer user's data to restore choice to the Office Productivity market.
- 3) Microsoft must not be allowed to prevent hardware manufacturers from installing alternative operating systems - This provision will help to increase competition in the operating systems market. The contracts that Microsoft signs with hardware OEMs in the past has prevented these OEMs from either installing other operating systems on the machine or altering the boot process to allow launching another operating system. This basically killed the BeOS. The barrier to entry in the operating system market is large, and this makes it even harder to compete. If you can't get the product installed on your hardware when you buy it, how will you ever appeal to a normal computer user?
- 4) Microsoft should pay a big fine! - Currently Microsoft has a huge amount of cash on hand. Cash that is ill-gotten gains from abusing their monopoly power. They should be fined as an example to other companies that the

anti-trust laws are still considered important in this country.

In conclusion, I don't think the current settlement agreement improves competition or punishes Microsoft for their wrongdoings. Please try to remedy this.

Thanks for your time,
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